



Councilmember Bonin <councilmember.bonin@lacity.org>

Losing my support for Bridge Housing

1 message

Mel Scheer <[REDACTED]>

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To: Eric Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>, mike.bonin@lacity.org, Mike Bonin <councilmember.bonin@lacity.org>, michel.moore@lapd.lacity.org

Gentlemen,

Previously I have spoken up for your Bridge Housing plan, as have many of my neighbors on Park Avenue in Venice. I have done so privately and publicly. I took the mic voicing my support at the Venice Town Hall Meeting, and have written compliments to you afterwards. I received an update on the slow process of removing the barricade. Two days ago I returned from a trip to see an unprecedented decay in the situation at the west end of the block. It has all the hallmarks of a permanent encampment.

(A note of sarcasm: in a Swiftian sense, there is now no need to move the barrier wall — the bodies and detritus of the campers are sufficient to block the vehicle of any maniac intent on mayhem. Just joking, tear down the wall.)

You are making it virtually impossible to have us, the governed, believe that you are competent to deliver the services you have proposed for the MTA site. It is with great reluctance that I write this. Perhaps there is truth in the adage that 'the worst kind of conservative is a liberal that has been mugged.' It is beginning to feel like you are the muggers.

Some suggestions:

1. Explain why Brooks, a thoroughfare, one block south, has no campers. What is being done right on that street?
2. Selective street cleaning three or four times a week at least on a trial basis. You have expressed concern about the site as a thoroughfare, post signs, use hose and brush trucks as you would for street cleaning.
3. Apply lessons learned on the recent Beach encampment clearance.
4. Do not play us as patsies. Have something successful to demonstrate your competence, and do it soon. A long term plan is admirable, but the City government needs our support now, do not lose any more of it.
5. Is there a role for defensive architecture such as city maintained rock gardens or planters on streets and right-of-ways? The City can do this under the rubric of street beautification. Venice Boulevard has fine examples near the DWP facility east of Fairfax. Define publicly the limits of what private citizens can do without being cited for code violations or civil action.
6. Is there a role for the Olympic Committee? Surely no one wants a "Mexico City Solution." Time is racing, and current events do not augur well for a strong finish.
7. Can able bodied homeless be rewarded for engaging in a street sweeping program? The use of a shower and laundry facility at the lifeguard center after working is a thought.
8. Talk to us about how to best civilly engage the ACLU and other advocacy groups. Personally I have a been contributor for years. What can you advise.

Meanwhile, I will continue to with the work of the VNC and Community Housing. I know that your task is hard, but locally it has failed.

Respectfully,
Melvin Scheer

Sent from my iPad